

Annual Froid Research Farm Tour set for June 24th

Wind rights are among the featured presentations at the 2010 Froid Research Farm Field Day set for Thursday, June 24th, beginning at 1 pm. An update on the research farm's demonstration wind turbine, installed last year, is also planned along with the on-farm tractor tour stops featuring several of the Sidney Agricultural Research Service's test plots. The farm is located 8 miles north of Culbertson on Highway 16. Registration begins at 1 p.m.

According to organizers, this year's tour program has flipped the on- and off-farm program portions so that participants are not sitting on tractor trailers during the hottest part of the afternoon. Consequently, this year's tour kicks off with registration at 1 pm and the "on-farm tour" at 1:15 pm.

On-farm tour stops include presentations on this year's grasshopper population outlook and management options; alfalfa weevil and wheat stem sawfly; nitrogen rate and application method on winter wheat and barley forages; water productivity of oilseeds with durum; and crop influence on weed communities in stacked and alternate year rotations. Stop presenters include ARS Entomologist Dave Branson, ARS Ecologist Tatyana Rand, ARS Agronomist Brett Allen; and Weed Ecologist Andrew Lenssen, along with Sheridan County Extension Agent Terry Angvick.

Following the tractor tour, participants will hear from Hoyt Richards, the Glasgow Unit Manager for the Montana Department of Natural Resources, who will provide information on wind energy rights. In addition, there is an update planned on the demonstration wind turbine installed at the Froid Research Farm last summer. The 45-foot Skystream 3.7 wind turbine is designed for utility-connected residential and commercial use and was purchased for the farm by the conservation districts with the aid of a "223" grant from the Montana Department of Natural Resource Conservation. It is currently connected to the Sheridan Electric Cooperative power grid.

A number of other presentations are also in the works, but not yet confirmed. Watch for updates in local news media.

The tour is sponsored by the Roosevelt and Sheridan County (MT) Conservation Districts and Extension Offices, Montana State University and the USDA-ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Lab in Sidney, MT and concludes with a BBQ steak dinner at 5:15 pm sponsored by the Conservation Districts.

We hope to see you there to enjoy a day of education as well as a delicious steak dinner!